UNITED STATES DISTRICT CO SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEV	OURT W YORK	
GERALD HENNING,		08 civ. 18
. ,	Plaintiff,	COMPLAINT
-against-		<u>PLAINTIFF DEMANDS</u> <u>A JURY TRIAL</u>
VERIZON, INC.,	Defendant.	JUDGE KARAS

Plaintiff, GERALD HENNING by his attorneys, the Law Offices of ROBERT DAVID GOODSTEIN, ESQ., complaining of the defendant, VERIZON, INC. (hereinafter "Verizon"), alleges as follows:

1. This is an action for compensatory damages and punitive damages on behalf of plaintiff. This suit is authorized pursuant to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. §2000e et. seq.) the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, (29 U.S.C. §621 et. seq.), the New York State Human Rights Law (NYS Executive Law §290 et. seq.) and New York City Local Law 59 of 1986, as amended by Local Rule 39 for 1991 §8-502. Jurisdiction of this Court is invoked pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §2000e-5, 28 U.S.C. §§1331 and 1343, and under the principle of pendent jurisdiction. Jurisdiction of this Court is invoked to secure protection of, and redress deprivation of, rights secured by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. §2000e et. seq.) and/or the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (29 U.S.C. §621 et. seq.) providing for equitable and legal relief against discrimination in employment, prohibiting retaliation against anyone who has opposed unlawful practices and/or because he has made a charge under the statute; both the New York State

Executive Law §290 et. seq. (Human Rights Law) and New York City Local Law 59 of 1986, as amended by Local Rule 39 for 1991 §8-101 et. seq., prohibiting discrimination in employment because of retaliation.

PARTIES

- 2. Plaintiff, **GERALD HENNING**, is a male residing in Cortlandt Manor, County of Westchester, State of New York. Plaintiff is an individual and, therefore, a "person" within the meaning of 42 U.S.C. §2000e(a).
- 3. Defendant, **VERIZON**, is a corporation operating pursuant to the laws of the State of New York with offices located at 1095 Avenue of the Americas, New York, in the County, City and State of New York.
- 4. Defendant is an "employer" as defined by 42 U.S.C. §2000e(b), since it is engaged in an industry affecting commerce, and since it had more than fifteen (15) employees for each working day in each of twenty (20) or more calendar weeks in the current or preceding calendar year.
- 5. Defendant is also an "employer" within the meaning of N.Y.S. Executive Law §292(5) and the New York City Local Law, since it had more than four (4) persons in its employ at all relevant times.
- 6. Defendant is also an "employer" within the meaning of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (29 U.S.C. §630 (b)) ("ADEA") since it is engaged in an industry affecting commerce, and since it had more than twenty (20) employees for each working day in each of twenty (20) or more calendar work weeks in the current or proceeding calendar year.

FACTS

7. Plaintiff was born in October 7, 1963 and is, therefore, over the age of 40 years.

- 8. Plaintiff was employed by Verizon for more than nineteen (19) years, from June 1988 through to his termination effective October 20, 2007.
- 9. On or about June 6, 2006, plaintiff filed a Charge of Discrimination with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Case No. 520-2006-024131 (copy annexed as Exhibit #1) alleging sex and age discrimination as a result of defendant's failure to consider plaintiff's requests for voluntary lateral transfers.
- 10. Within four (4) months of the filing of this Charge, on or about October 4, 2006, plaintiff was disciplined and suspended for thirty (30) days for working through lunch, leaving work early and signing out early. On information and belief, plaintiff's co-workers were not disciplined for similar infractions.
- 11. Prior to October 2006, Plaintiff was never disciplined and his work performance was evaluated as satisfactory or above.
- 12. In November 2006, Plaintiff filed a second Charge of Discrimination with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, for retaliation and perceived disability, Charge No. 520-2007-00636 (Exhibit #2) and Plaintiff has received both Notices of Right to Sue (Exhibit #3). This action is brought within ninety (90) days of the November 28, 20007 issuance of said Notices of Right to Sue.

AS AND FOR PLAINTIFF'S FEDERAL CAUSE OF ACTION

13. Defendant, VERIZON, engaged in unlawful employment practices by discriminating against plaintiff because of reprisal, as plaintiff filed a charge with Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and as plaintiff opposed an unlawful employment practice, specifically, discrimination, with respect to the terms, conditions and/or privileges of his employment, when defendant

sanctioned, condoned and/or permitted plaintiff's suspension, in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. §2000e et. seq.) and/or the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (29 U.S.C. §621 et seq.).

AS AND FOR PLAINTIFF'S PENDENT STATE CAUSE OF ACTION

14. Defendant, VERIZON, engaged in unlawful discriminatory practices by discriminating against plaintiff when defendant suspended plaintiff from employment because of retaliation, in violation of N.Y.S. Executive Law §290 et. seq.

AS AND FOR PLAINTIFF'S PENDENT NEW YORK CITY CLAIM

- 15. Defendant VERIZON is an "employer" for purpose of the New York City Local Law 59 of 1986 as amended by local Rule 39 for 1991, §8-101 et. seq.
- 16. Plaintiff served a copy of the Complaint upon the City Commission on Human Rights and the New York City Corporation Counsel.
 - 17. Plaintiff has satisfied all prerequisites to filing the instant Complaint.
- 18. Defendant, VERIZON, acting in a willful and malicious manner, unlawfully discriminated against plaintiff because of retaliation when defendant suspended plaintiff for opposing an unlawful discriminating practice in violation of New York City Local Law 59 of 1986, as amended by local Rule 39 for 1991, §8-107 et. seq.
 - 19. Plaintiff demands a jury trial on all claims.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff demands judgment against the defendant as follows:

On Plaintiff's Title VII and A.D.E.A. Federal Causes of Action:

i. An award of compensatory/punitive damages, pursuant to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. §2000e et. seq.), in the amount of Fifty Thousand

Dollars (\$50,000.00);

- ii. An award of back pay and lost benefits;
- iii. Reinstatement to his prior seniority.
- iv. An award of reasonable attorneys' fees, together with costs and disbursements of this action, pursuant to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. §2000e et. seq.); and pursuant to the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (29 U.S.C. §621 et seq.)
- v. Costs and interest from October 4, 2006.
- vi. Liquidated damages pursuant to the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (29 U.S.C. §621 et seq)

On Plaintiff's Pendent State Cause of Action:

- i. An award of damages in the amount of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00); and
- ii. Costs and interest from October 4, 2006

On Plaintiff's Pendent New York City Cause of Action:

- i. An award of compensatory and/or punitive damages in the amount of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00); and
- ii. An award of reasonable attorneys' fees, together with costs of this action pursuant to New York City Local Law 59 of 1986, as amended by Local Rule 39 for 1991 §8-502(f).

Together with such other and further relief as to the Court deems just and proper.

DATED: New Rochelle, New York February 19, 2008

ed 02/26/2008 Page 6 of 17

Yours, etc.,

Law Office of

ROBERT DAYID GOODSTEIN, ESQ.

BY:

Robert David Goodstein (RDG5443)

Attorneys for Plaintiff

GERALD HENNING

56 Harrison Street, Suite 401

New Rochelle, New York 10801

(914)632-8382

Plaintiff's Documents Exhibit #1

EEDC Form 5 (50)		 .
CHARGE OF DISCRIMINATION	Charge Presented To: Agency(ies) Charge No(s)	:
This form is affected by the Physics Act. See enclosed Physics Act	FEPA	ļ
Statement and other information before completing this form	EEOC	
	and EEOC	
State or local Agency, i	If any Date of Birth	
Name (Indicate Mr. Ms. Mrs.) MR. GERALO HENNING	10-7-63	3
City, State and		
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advise the agencies it I change my societies to provide histories and their procedures with them in the processing of my charge in accordance with their procedures	I swear or affirm that I have read the above charge and that it is true to) the
I declare under penalty of perjury that the above is true and correct.	Learn mixt any large information and belief.	
(SIGNATURE OF COMPLAINANT Gerald Howing	
	SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS DATE	
MAY 5 2006 Serald Denning Charging Party Signature	(month, day, year) NT, CTC Ltc C	
Date Charging Party Signature	5/5/6 Commission	
	12/3/02	

EEO	C AFFIDAVIT
(This form is affected by the Privacy Act of 1974. See	Privacy Act Statement on reverse before completing this form.) TELEPHONE NUMBER (Give area code)
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GERALO HENNING	111 301 1101
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NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER	
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ON APRIL 27, 2006 I HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED FOR	30 DAYS
AND PENDING- FINAL DISMISSAL FOR NOT FOLLOWING T	HE RULE
DF SUPERVISOR ROSA RAMOS.	
I BELIEVE THE COMPANY IS TRYING TO PUNISH ME OR	FIRE ME
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PAGE 2

TORM STABER FITTED DATE: FEOC FORM 133, EEOC AFFIDAVIT, December 1993.

^{2.} ACTHORITY 42 USC 2000e(9), 29 USC 201, 29 USC 621, 42 U.S.C. 12117.

[🛴] PUNCIPAL PURPORES. Provides a standardized format for obtaining sworn statements of information relevant to a charge of discrimination.

⁴ ROL TINE USES. These affidavits are weed to: (1) make an official determination regarding the validity of the charge of discrimination; (2) guide the Commission's investigatory active. and (3) in Commission Ligation, to impeach or substantiate a witness's testimony.

[:] WHETHER DISCLOSURE IS MAND AYORY OR VOLUNTARY AND EFFECTION INDIVIDUAL FOR NOT PROVIDING INFORMATION: Valuntary, Lailure to provide the office. has no effect upon the jurisdiction of the Commission to process a charge. However, sworn matements submitted by the parties, are, of course, relied upon more heavily than up, with ratements in making a determination as to the existence of unlawful discrimination.

Plaintiff's Documents Exhibit #2

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Verizon, Inc.	100+			COUNTY
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P.05

Henning v. Verizon

I, Gerald Henning, have been employed by Verizon (the "Company") for approximately eighteen (18) years, and currently serve as a Central Office Technician.

My duties consist of, among other things, the wiring and maintenance of switching and carrier equipment. My performance has consistently been satisfactory or above satisfactory.

I previously filed a complaint of employment discrimination with the EEOC in June 2006, EEOC Charge No. 520-2006-02431, which is currently pending. On or about October 4, 2006, just months after the filing of said complaint. I was suspended for alleged performance deficiencies. I believe this disciplinary action is in retaliation for my protected activity.

On or about October 4, 2006, I was advised by my supervisors, Ms. Rosa Ramos and Mr. Joseph Dennis, that I was suspended for leaving work early; not taking lunch (i.e., working through lunch) and signing out early. Upon information and belief, none of my co-workers were disciplined for similar infractions, notwithstanding the fact that many of them also work through their lunch periods and leave early.

In addition, I believe that my supervisor, Ms. Rosa Ramos, who suspended me on October 4, 2006 is discriminating against me in the terms and conditions of my employment because she perceives me as disabled. In fact, at a recent meeting on or about September 21, 2006, Ms. Ramos stated that she thought I should go to the Company's Employee Assistance Program ("EAP"). Ms. Ramos stated that she thought I should see a doctor, implying that I needed psychological help. In fact, Ms. Ramos contacted EAP and made an appointment for me. I never discussed my psychological state with Ms. Rosa, nor did I request a referral to EAP. I have since complied with my supervisor's direction and have gone to EAP.

I believe that the October 4, 2006 suspension was motivated by illegal retaliatory animus due to the filing of my earlier EEOC complaint, as well as illegal discriminatory animus on the part of Ms. Rosa, who obviously perceives me as a sychologically disabled, notwithstanding the absence of any medical evidence supplied by me which suggests the same.

The foregoing is a summary of the facts supporting my claims of discrimination

I have not received a written performance evaluation in approximately three (3) years.

NOV - 8 2006

Case 7:08-cv-01882-KMK

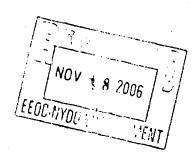
Document 1

Filed 02/26/2008 Page 14 of 17

ے not intended to be exhaustive. No charge or complaint has been filed with any state or local civil rights agency on the same discriminatory conduct.

Based on the foregoing, I charge Respondent with unlawful discrimination in the terms and conditions of my employment in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, the New York State Executive Law, §296 et seq. and the Administrative Code of the City of New York, §8-107 et seq.

Dated: October 10, 2006



Plaintiff's Documents Exhibit #3

Case 7:08-cv-01882-KMK Document 1 Piled 02/26/2008 Page 16 of 17

EEOC Form 161 (3/98)

DISMISSAL AND NOTICE OF RIGHTS

		•	
	On behalf of person(s) aggrieved whose identity is CONFIDENTIAL (29 CFR §1601.7(a))		- 19 (19 (19 (19 (19 (19 (19 (19 (19 (19
EEOC Charge No.	EEOC Representative		Telephone No.
520-2006-02431	Hazel C. Stewart, Supervisory Investigator		(212) 336-3776

The facts alleged in the charge fail to state a claim under any of the statutes enforced by the EEOC. Your allegations did not involve a disability as defined by the Americans With Disabilities Act. The Respondent employs less than the required number of employees or is not otherwise covered by the statutes. Your charge was not timely filed with EEOC; in other words, you waited too long after the date(s) of the alleged discrimination to file your charge Having been given 30 days in which to respond, you failed to provide information, failed to appear or be available for interviews/conferences, or otherwise failed to cooperate to the extent that it was not possible to resolve your charge. While reasonable efforts were made to locate you, we were not able to do so. You were given 30 days to accept a reasonable settlement offer that affords full relief for the harm you alleged. The EEOC issues the following determination: Based upon its investigation, the EEOC is unable to conclude that the information obtained establishes violations of the statutes. This does not certify that the respondent is in compliance with the statutes. No finding is made as to any other issues that might be construed as having been raised by this charge. The EEOC has adopted the findings of the state or local fair employment practices agency that investigated this charge.

- NOTICE OF SUIT RIGHTS -

(See the additional information attached to this form.)

Title VII, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and/or the Age Discrimination in Employment Act: This will be the only notice of dismissal and of your right to sue that we will send you. You may file a lawsuit against the respondent(s) under federal law based on this charge in federal or state court. Your lawsuit must be filed <u>WITHIN 90 DAYS</u> of your receipt of this notice; or your right to sue based on this charge will be lost. (The time limit for filing suit based on a state claim may be different.)

Equal Pay Act (EPA): EPA suits must be filed in federal or state court within 2 years (3 years for willful violations) of the alleged EPA underpayment. This means that backpay due for any violations that occurred <u>more than 2 years (3 years)</u> before you file suit may not be collectible.

On behalf of the Commission

Enclosures(s) Spencer H. Lewis, Jr.,

(Date Mailed)

Director

VERIZON New York, Inc Aida Lane Sr. Staff Consultant, EEO Compliance 240 E.38th Street Floor 17, Room 1708 New York, NY 10016

CC:

Other (briefly state)

Patricia M. Mulligan, Esq. 3535 Hill Boulevard, Suite M Yorktown Heights, NY 10598 Case 7:08-cv-01883 EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTION P2 COMMISSION Page 17 of 17

~		DISMISSAL AND NOTICE	CE OF	RIGHTS			
To:	Gerald Henning 14 Galloway Lane Cortlandt Manor, NY 1	0567	From:	New York District Offic 33 Whitehall Street 5th Floor New York, NY 10004	е		
		half of person(s) aggrieved whose identity is FIDENTIAL (29 CFR §1601.7(a))					
EEO	C Charge No.	EEOC Representative			Telephone No.		
		Hazel C. Stewart,					
520-	2007-00636	Supervisory Investigator			(212) 336-3776		
THE	EEOC IS CLOSING	TS FILE ON THIS CHARGE FOR THE	FOLLO	WING REASON:			
	The facts alleged	in the charge fail to state a claim under any of the s	statutes e	enforced by the EEOC.			
Γ	Your allegations of	lid not involve a disability as defined by the Americ	ans With	Disabilities Act.			
The Respondent employs less than the required number of employees or is not otherwise covered by the statutes.							
Your charge was not timely filed with EEOC; in other words, you waited too long after the date(s) of the alleged discrimination to charge							
	Having been giv	ven 30 days in which to respond, you faile ences, or otherwise failed to cooperate to the exten	d to protect that it w	ovide information, failed to as not possible to resolve you	appear or be available for ur charge.		
	While reasonable efforts were made to locate you, we were not able to do so.						
	You were given 30 days to accept a reasonable settlement offer that affords full relief for the harm you alleged.						
	establishes violati	the following determination: Based upon its invesors of the statutes. This does not certify that the rehat might be construed as having been raised by the	espondei	nt is in compliance with the st	de that the information obtained atutes. No finding is made as to		
	The EEOC has ac	lopted the findings of the state or local fair employr	ment prac	ctices agency that investigated	d this charge.		
	Other (briefly state	2)					
		- NOTICE OF SUIT (See the additional information at					
notice edera of thi	e of dismissal and of y	rith Disabilities Act, and/or the Age Di your right to sue that we will send you. charge in federal or state court. Your la t to sue based on this charge will be lost	You m wsuit r	lay file a lawsuit agains nust be filed <u>WITHIN</u>	st the respondent(s) under <u>90 DAYS</u> of your receipt		
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Enclos	sures(s)	Spencer H. Lew Director	/is, Jr.,		(Date Mailed)		
cc:	VERIZON New York	. Inc	Patricia	M. Mulligan, Esq.			

CE: VERIZON New York, Inc Aida Lane Sr. Staff Consultant, EEO Compliance 240 E.38th Street Floor 17, Room 1708 New York, NY 10016 Patricia M. Mulligan, Esq. 3535 Hill Boulevard, Suite M Yorktown Heights, NY 10598